

CLAIMS:

1. A mobile communication apparatus for communicating with a network selectively utilizing a plurality of IC units connected to the apparatus, each of the IC units having data for establishing a communication link with the network, the apparatus comprising:
 - a detector configured to detect each of the IC units connected to the apparatus;
 - an activator configured to activate at least one of the detected IC units for communication with the network; and
 - a controller configured to inform the network of data in the activated IC unit(s).
2. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the activator is configured to activate more than one of the detected IC units for communication with the network.
3. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is configured to initiate establishment of a communication link with the network.
4. The mobile communication apparatus according to the claim 1, the apparatus further comprising a selector configured to select an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network.
5. The mobile communication apparatus according to the claim 4, wherein the activator is further configured to deactivate a non-selected IC unit.
6. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selector selects an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network based upon a time at which the mobile communication apparatus is used.
7. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selector selects an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network based upon data broadcasted from the network.
8. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the data indicates a location of the mobile communication apparatus.
9. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the data indicates a country where the mobile communication apparatus is located.
10. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein each IC unit has a country code indicating a home location of the mobile communication apparatus, and the

selector selects for use in establishing a communication link with the network an activated IC unit that has a broadcasted home location code.

11. A method for selectively utilizing a plurality of IC units connected to a mobile communication apparatus for communicating with a network, each of the IC units having data for establishing a communication link with the network, the method comprising:

detecting each of the IC units connected to the apparatus;
activating at least one of the detected IC units for communication with the network; and
informing the network of data in the activated IC unit(s).

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein more than one of the detected IC units are activated for communication with the network.

13. The method according to claim 11, said method further comprising initiating from said apparatus a communication link with the network.

14. The method according to the claim 1, further comprising selecting an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network.

15. The method according to the claim 14, further comprising deactivating a non-selected IC unit.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein said selecting of an activated IC unit is carried out based upon a time at which the mobile communication apparatus is used.

17. The method according to claim 14, wherein said selecting of an activated IC unit is carried out based upon data broadcasted from the network.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the data indicates a location of the mobile communication apparatus.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the data indicates a country where the mobile communication apparatus is located.

20. The method according to claim 17, wherein each IC unit has a country code indicating a home location of the mobile communication apparatus, and wherein an activated IC unit that has a broadcasted location code is selected for use in establishing a communication link with the network.

21. A mobile communication apparatus for receiving a plurality of IC units to communicate with a network, each of the IC units having data for establishing a communication link with the network, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of sockets configured to receive said plurality of IC units;
a detector configured to detect an IC unit received in a said socket;
an activator configured to activate the detected IC unit for communication with the network; and
a controller configured to inform the network of data in the activated IC unit.

22. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said activator is configured to activate a second IC unit inserted into one of said sockets after a first unit has been inserted into another socket.

23. The mobile communication apparatus according to the claim 21, the apparatus further comprising a selector configured to select an activated IC unit to communicate with the network.

24. The mobile communication apparatus according to the claim 23, wherein the activator is further configured to deactivate a non-selected IC unit.

25. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the selector selects an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network based upon a time at which the mobile communication apparatus is used.

26. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the selector selects an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network based upon data broadcasted from the network.

27. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the data indicates a location of the mobile communication apparatus.

28. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the data indicates a country where the mobile communication apparatus is located.

29. The mobile communication apparatus according to claim 26, wherein each IC unit has a country code indicating a home location of the mobile communication apparatus, and the selector selects, for use in establishing a communication link with the network, an activated IC unit that has a broadcasted home location code.

30. A method carried out in a mobile communication apparatus for communicating with a network, said apparatus having a plurality of sockets for receiving a plurality of IC units, each of the IC units having data for establishing a communication link with the network, the method comprising:

detecting an IC unit received in a said socket;
activating the detected IC unit for communication with the network; and
informing the network of data in the activated IC unit.

31. The method according to claim 30, further comprising activating a second IC unit inserted into one of said sockets, after a first unit has been inserted into the other socket.

32. The method according to the claim 30, further comprising selecting an activated IC unit for use in establishing a communication link with the network.

33. The method according to the claim 32, further comprising deactivating a non-selected IC unit.

34. The method according to claim 30, wherein said selecting of an activated IC unit is carried out based upon a time at which the mobile communication apparatus is used.

35. The method according to claim 30, wherein said selecting of an activated IC unit is carried out based upon data broadcasted from the network.

36. The method according to claim 35, wherein the data indicates a location of the mobile communication apparatus.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the data indicates a country where the mobile communication apparatus is located.

38 39. The method according to claim 35, wherein each IC unit has a country code indicating a home location of the mobile communication apparatus, and wherein an IC unit that has a broadcasted location code is selected for use in establishing a communication link with the network.

Rule 2